

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-6 and 8-18 are pending. Claims 1, 10, and 16 are amended. Claims 1 and 10 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claim 10 be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, and that claims 7 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter in this application. Independent claim 10 has been amended as set forth above in order to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. In addition, independent claim 1 has been amended herein to include a novel combination of elements not suggested by the references cited by the Examiner.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 10 are in condition for allowance.

Claim for Priority

The Examiner has acknowledged the Applicants' claim for foreign priority based on Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-063430.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 10-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner states that claim 10 contains subject matter that is contradictory and that is not supported by the specification.

In order to overcome this rejection, Applicants have amended claim 10 to include *inter alia*

the control circuit further comprises an adder circuit for adding a compensation temperature to the temperature detected by the temperature sensor, and outputting a LCD drive voltage which is a function of a sum of these temperatures to the liquid crystal driver when the temperature detected by the temperature sensor exceeds a predetermined reference temperature.

Support for this amendment can be seen in paragraph [0039].

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, are fully supported by and adequately described in the written description of the invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and § 103(a)

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kumagai et al. (U.S. 4,556,877). Further, claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kumagai et al. in view of Ino (JP-04-001034), and claims 3 and 8 stand

rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kumagai et al. in view of Santis (U.S. 4,464,933). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a combination of elements in a liquid crystal display including *inter alia*

 said heat collection panel divides an inside space of the meter housing where said temperature sensor and said liquid crystal display are mounted, and causes the ambient temperature of said temperature sensor to follow a temperature change of said liquid crystal display panel.

Support for the novel features set forth in claim 1 can be found, for example, in paragraphs [0025], [0028], and [0029].

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Kumagai et al.

The Examiner asserts that Kumagai et al. (column 2, line 30 to column 3, line 13) discloses the hood (heat collection panel) 2 surrounds the liquid crystal display panel 9.

However, as can be seen from Kumagai et al. FIG. 4, the hood (heat collection panel) 2 does not divide the inside space of the meter housing 23, and cannot follow the ambient temperature of the temperature sensor 22. The space of the Kumagai et al. sensor 22 is different from the space of the liquid crystal panel 9. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that it is impossible for the hood (heat collection panel) 2 to cause the temperature of

the temperature of the sensor 22 to follow the temperature of the liquid display panel 9.

At least for the reasons explained above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Kumagai et al. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Therefore, independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner will note that claim 16 has been amended merely to place it in better form. All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

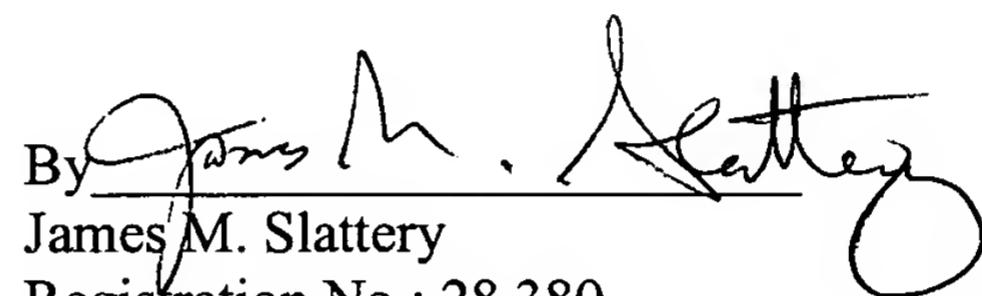
Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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